(c) whether Government have any proposal for allowing the CGHS beneficiaries to get treatment in Civil Hospital, Rohru;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) CGHS facilities are not available in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) Since Himachal Pradesh is not covered under CGHS, no private hospital has been recognised under CGHS in the State. However, the Central Government employees working in Himachal Pradesh are eligible for medical facilities under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

(c) to (e) As Himachal Pradesh is not covered under CGHS, the question does not arise.

Lung cancer deaths due to smoking

50. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smoking is responsible for 90 per cent lung cancer deaths as per WHO;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a total of 240 million smokers are in the country and this epidemic is spreading fast; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to control this menace, specially among children and women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to the 1996 data, the proportion of lung cancer deaths due to tobacco smoking was 87% among men and 33.2% among women. A survey conducted in the country in 1998 indicated that the prevalence of smoking was 29.4% among men and 2.5% among women.

The Government has been taking various administrative steps and undertaking IEC activities to regulate and discourage smoking. In this connection, a comprehensive legislation namely the Cigarettes and other

Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 has been enacted by the Parliament, which intends to discourage the use of tobacco products through various control measures like total ban on advertisement of tobacco products, prohibition of smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to persons below 18 years of age and within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.

Registration of Chinese suppliers with DCI

51. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications of Chinese suppliers pending for registration with the DCI office as on June, 2003;

(b) whether it is a fact that the registrations pertaining to the Chinese origin companies are withheld for more than three to four months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what remedies are being taken to correct this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) 63 sites are pending registration as on date.

(b) to (d) As per Government of India Notification No. GSR 604 (E) dated 24.8.2001, processing period of 9 months to 1 year has been provided for issuance of Registration Certificate, subject to the all documents required under the Notification being provided by the applicants. All attempts are being made to issue the Registration Certificate within this prescribed time limit. In many applications including those of Chinese manufacturers, the documentation received have been found to be inadequate and clarifications have been sought. In all cases where the documents have been reasonably satisfactory, Registration Certificates are being issued to the Chinese manufacturers.